

# Tim Closs

## **Biography**

I was born in Midland, Michigan, but grew up in Virginia, where I had my first garden in the early 1970's. One of my earliest jobs was working for a "truck" farm, picking vegetables. Went to college at Virginia Tech in 1978 where I took my first Horticulture classes. I had great professors who stimulated my passion for plants. However, I wasn't the best student in other courses, but had a GREAT time. I moved to the San Francisco area in the early 1980 where I worked in the nursery and landscaping industries while taking horticulture courses at several colleges. I moved to Plano, Texas in 1984 and decided that it was time to get my act together. I worked as a wholesale nursery manager for 6 months and then I enrolled at Texas Tech in Lubbock, Texas. I graduated in 1985 with a B.S. in Ornamental Horticulture and in 1991 received my M.S. in Horticulture with my thesis focusing on plant tissue culture and micropropagation. I worked my way through college with my own landscape business and by working at an EPA sponsored Pesticide information hotline. After college, I continued to work for the EPA until 1995. For two years, I moved away from plants and worked as an occupational safety specialist. I hated every minute of that job. I moved back to Plano, Texas to be nearer my aging parents, got a job teaching Landscape Technology at the North Texas Job Corps in McKinney. In August of 1998, I was approached to teach at Naaman Forest H.S. in Garland Texas, where I have been ever since. Our high school horticulture program is well respected throughout the state for our innovative approach to teaching and our intense focus on both the students and horticulture.

Timothy J. Closs  
1371 Carlo Drive  
Princeton, TX 75407  
timcloss@att.net

## OBJECTIVE

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Teach Horticulture in a progressive and well-rounded Agricultural Science program at the high school level.

## EXPERIENCE

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1998–Present Naaman Forest High School Garland, TX.

*Horticulture Instructor*

- Responsible for Landscape Design, Introduction to Horticulture, Agricultural Biotechnology, Ag. Independent Study and Pre-employment Horticulture Block , Floral Design & Advance Floral Design classes.
- Assist in purchasing of all equipment and materials utilized in the courses
- FFA Advisor
- Coach of two State Champion FFA Nursery/Landscape teams
- Coach of two National top ten FFA Nursery/Landscape teams
- Coach of State semifinalist Agricultural Issues team
- Coach of numerous District and Area Leadership Development Event teams
- Director of Plant Tissue Culture laboratory

1997–1998 North Texas Job Corps McKinney, TX.

*Landscape Technology instructor*

- Initiated Landscape technology program.
- Directed purchase of all equipment to initiate program
- Oversaw construction of greenhouse
- Developed curriculum for implementation of program

1995-1997 Texas Tech University HSC Lubbock, TX.

*Occupational Safety Specialist*

- Investigated all accidents at facility.
- Created quarterly reports detailing accidents at all TTUHSC campuses
- Performed monthly and quarterly laboratory inspections
- Assisted in safety and workman's compensation data collection and analysis

## EDUCATION

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|-----------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 1987–1991 | Texas Tech University         | Lubbock, TX |
| ■         | M.S., Horticulture            |             |
| 1985–1987 | Texas Tech University         | Lubbock, TX |
| ■         | B.S., Ornamental Horticulture |             |
| ■         | Graduated cum laude           |             |

## INTERESTS

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Gardening, Music & Fishing

## CERTIFICATIONS

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Teaching Certificate-Vocational Agriculture

Texas Certified Nursery Professional

Texas Licensed Irrigator #6051

Texas Pesticide Private Applicator